Geropegia panchganiensis Blatt. et McC. in Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 36: 534-535. 1933.

Erect herb, 45 - 50 cm high, root tuberous. Leaves 6 - 9 × 3 - 6 cm, ovate, ovate-oblong to ovate-lanceolate, acute or acuminate at apex, rounded or subcordate at base; petiole up to 2.5 cm long. Cymes 4-5-flowered; peduncles 5 - 15 mm long, hairy; pedicels 8 - 15 mm long, hairy. Sepals 3-4 mm long, hairy or glabrous. Corolla 3-4 cm long; tube 2.5 - 3.0 cm long, greyish outside, base inflated in lower one-third to one-fourth part, uniformly cylindrical above, narrowing at apex, inside with a ring of hairs at the bottom of the inflated base; lobes 6-7 × 4 mm, obovate acute, glabrous; tips incurve, connate, forming a sub-globose head. Outer corona cupular, *ca* 1.0 mm long, 5-lobed, with long bristly hairs; inner 2 mm long, erect, with a few hairs. Pollen masses minute, yellow (Figs. 1-4).

Neotype: Maharashtra: Lingmala, near Mahabaleshwar, Satara district, *Ansari* 105090A (*CAL*).

Note: The tubers of this species were introduced in the experimental plots of Botanical Survey of India, Pune which flowered during July - August.

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ETHNOBOTANY OF THE 'KORKUS' IN MAHARASHTRA

'Korkus' are a tribe of aborigines residing in the northernmost parts of the Akola District in Maharashtra. These tribals fully depend on herbal medicines for all their ailments. They believe in supernatural powers of some objects and make use of many plants in rituals connected with different social activities and in other practices against ghosts and evil spirits.

The authors during their plant exploration work during the years 1977-79, ascertained from the Korkus some of the plants and plant products they were making use of. For example they used the roots of *Abrus precatorius* in *Tayit* (Talisman) to get rid of an evil spirit. They also believe that the smoke from burning of twigs and leaves of *Achyranthes aspera* drives away ghosts. Further, the tribals invariably keep with them in their house a stick of *Calamus rotang* or of *Murraya exotica* or twigs of *Tamarix ericoides* in the belief that they would not be haunted by ghosts. Here it has to be mentioned that though these tribals used many plants in their magicc-religious beliefs from a long time, all the factors involved could not be analysed.

However, on the use of plants for medicinal purposes, the following few could be gathered and recorded. The binomials are also provided with the local names.

1. **Alectra thompsoni** Hook. f. (Scrophulariaceae). *Nirgunda.*

Decoction of brownish yellow rhizome parts is used in rheumatism and also used as tonic.

2. **Argemone mexicana** L. (Papaveraceae). *Pivala dhotra.*

The roots are burnt to provide heat in treatment of piles. Roots (about 1 cm piece) are also given in Pan (Piper betle) when there is severe stomach-ache.

3. **Butea monosperma** (Lam.) Taub. (Fabaceae). *Palas.*

Flowers are used in dysentery. There is a white flowered *Butea,* the flowers of which are eaten during famine.

4. **B. superba** Roxb. (Fabaceae). *Palas bel.*

The tubers are made into paste and applied for inflamation or ulcers of the neck of Oxen.

5. **Capparis moonii** Wight (Capparaceae). *Waghati.*

The fruits are eaten as a cure for weakness, coughing and spitting and avoid tuberculosis.

6. **Cucurbita maxima** Duchesne (Cucurbitaceae). *Tambda Bhopla.*

About 10-12 seeds, after removing testa are given to children continuously 3-4 days, in the morning on an empty stomach for removing intestinal worms.

7. **Garcinia indica** Choise (Clusiaceae). *Ratamba* or *Amsul.*

Decoction of mature fruits is taken in the treatment of allergic skin diseases.

8. **Ixora coccinea** L. (Rubiaceae). *Bakali.*

Roots along with long pepper, and a little water, are used in acute dysentery.

9. **Xeromphis spinosa** (Thunb.) Keay (Rubiaceae). *Gila.*

A paste from the fruit is locally applied on the boil.

10. **Solanum xanthocarpum** Schrad. (Solanaceae). *Bhuiringni.*

The dried fruits are burnt, under an earthern pot and the fumes alleviate toothache and decayed teeth.

11. **Tridax procumbens** L. (Asteraceae). *Yekdandi.*

One tablespoon of juice of the leaves and stems is given each, in the morning and evening to remove stone in the urinary bladder.

12. **Tylophora fasciculata** Ham. (Asclepiadaceae). *Bhindodi.*

Decoction of roots is taken in to get relief from high fever.

13. **Ziziphus oenoplia** Mill. (Rhamnaceae). *Ranber.*

Twigs are burnt to provide heat in cases of piles.

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